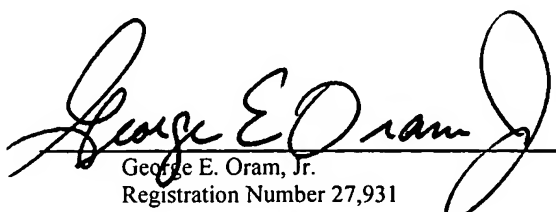


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| FORM PTO-1390<br>(REV 5-93)   |  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER<br>103120-00071   |
| TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES<br>DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)<br>CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371  |  |  | DATE: December 12, 2005  |
|   |  |  | U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER<br>(IF KNOWN, SEE 37 C.F.R. 1.5)<br>NEW PATENT APPLICATION<br><b>10/560361</b> |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER<br>PCT/FR2004/050273   | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE<br>June 11, 2004 | PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED<br>June 12, 2003                     |  |
| TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR MANAGING A CONTINUOUS IN-LINE METAL STRIP PROCESSING INSTALLATION,<br>AND INSTALLATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS METHOD  |  |  |  |
| APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Daniel SYLVAIN (Paris, France)   |  |  |  |
| Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:   |  |  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The U.S. has been elected (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)] <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application into English [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)]. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)] <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)].</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)].</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)].</li> </ol> |  |  |  |
| Items 11 to 20 below concern other document(s) or information included:   |  |  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, PTO/SB/08a, and International Search Report.</li> <li>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> An Application Data Sheet under 37 C.F.R. 1.76.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 C.F.R. 1.821 - 1.825.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant herein qualifies for small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27, and acknowledgement of this status by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby requested.</li> <li>21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Drawings (Figs. 5; 3 sheets), Certification of Translation, PCT/IB/304 (copy), PCT/IB/308 (copy), PCT/IB/371 (copy), WO 2004/110663 A1 (copy)</li> </ol>   |  |  |  |

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| U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER<br>(IF KNOWN, SEE 37 C.F.R. 1.50)<br>NEW PATENT APPLICATION   |              | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION<br>NUMBER<br>PCT/FR2004/050273                         |            | ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER<br>103120-00071  |              |
| The following fees are submitted  |              |  |            | CALCULATIONS  | PTO USE ONLY |
| 22. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic National Fee  |              | ..... \$300.00   |            | \$ 300.00   |              |
| 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examination Fee<br>If International Preliminary Examination Report prepared by USPTO<br>and all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$100.00<br>All other situations ..... \$200.00  |              |  |            | \$ 200.00   |              |
| 24. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search Fee<br>Search Fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the International<br>Application to the USPTO as an International Search Authority ..... \$100.00<br>International Search Report prepared and provided to the Office ..... \$400.00<br>All other situations ..... \$500.00   |              |  |            | \$ 500.00   |              |
| TOTAL OF CALCULATIONS FOR 21, 22 AND 23   |              |  |            | \$ 1,000.00   |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets<br>excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic<br>medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.   |              |  |            |   |              |
| Total Sheets  | Extra Sheets | Number of each additional 50 or fraction<br>thereof (round up to a whole number) | Rate       |   |              |
| - 100 =   | / 50 =       |  | X \$250.00 | \$  |              |
| Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months<br>from the earliest claimed priority date [37 C.F.R. 1.492(e)].   |              |  |            | \$  |              |
| Claims  | Number Filed | Number Extra   | Rate       |   |              |
| Total Claims  | 38 - 20 =    | 18   | X \$ 50.00 | \$ 900.00   |              |
| Independent Claims  | 2 - 3 =      | 0  | X \$200.00 | \$ .00  |              |
| Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)   |              |  | + \$360.00 | \$ .00  |              |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =   |              |  |            | \$ 1,900.00   |              |
| Reduction by one-half for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity<br>statement must also be filed. (Note 37 C.F.R. 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).   |              |  |            | \$  |              |
| SUBTOTAL =  |              |  |            | \$ 1,900.00   |              |
| Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30<br>months from the earliest claimed priority date [37 C.F.R. 1.492(f)].   |              |  |            | \$  |              |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =  |              |  |            | \$ 1,900.00   |              |
| Fee for recording the enclosed assignment [37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)]. The assignment must be<br>accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 C.F.R. 3.28, 3.31).<br>\$40.00 per property  |              |  |            | \$  |              |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =   |              |  |            | \$ 1,900.00   |              |
|   |              |  |            | Amount to be refunded   | \$           |
|   |              |  |            | Charged   | \$           |
| <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check #438222 in the amount of \$1,900.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account Number 01-2300 in the amount of \$ .00 to cover the above fee.<br/>A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit<br/>Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number 103120-00071.</p> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 C.F.R. 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 C.F.R. 1.137(a) or (b)) must<br/>be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:<br/>Customer Number 004372<br/>ARENT FOX PLLC<br/>1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW<br/>Suite 400<br/>Washington, DC 20036-5339<br/>Telephone: 202-857-6000 Fax: 202-638-4810</p> <p>GEO:vmh</p> |              |  |            |   |              |
|   |              |  |            | <br>George E. Oram, Jr.<br>Registration Number 27,931 |              |